

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Keshcarrigan** Ref: **432**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **193**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>193</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Keshcarrigan to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. You have a large committee of 20 people which must be of great assistance in your annual work programme implementation. Thank you for the 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan which was useful. However it is recommended that you break each project down into the year for implementation, estimated costs and potential supporting organisations and agencies.

### **The Built Environment:**

The installation of the decorative lights and removal of the old poles represents good progress as does the replacement and extension of some of the village footpaths. The potential conversion of the old Technical School to Community / Resource Centre in 2008 is an interesting project and hopefully in June / July next year we will be able to view progress. Have you considered converting the present Village Square from a car park to another key feature of Keshcarrigan? The infill development opposite the Garda Station blends well with existing buildings in the area and restores the original street line. The Marina was found to be excellently presented and the approach road through the wood-land is most attractive. At the Marina the toilets were spotlessly clean. A good colour scheme to go with the natural stone was noted at the National School. The old VEC building, tractor and work cabin looked rather grim and hopefully there are some plans to redevelop this building which at the moment adds little to Keshcarrigan. Thank you for encouraging the use of the Irish language on signage.

### **Landscaping:**

The tubs and hanging baskets looked quite well and added some colour to the village and the planting at the Memorial on the Mohill road was also examined. Your policy of planting only native trees in the new housing estates is strongly supported by your adjudicator. The Stepping Stones small garden area was attractively

presented and is just one of a number of larger landscaped areas that you have developed over the years. The Fair Green Garden and 1798 Memorial was extremely well presented and the grass here had a lovely lush green appearance. What is the position in regard to the beautiful two storey thatched cottage that is so attractively presented? The Fr. Michael Judge Peace Garden with its wonderful lakeside setting was a joy to visit. The landscaping here is excellent and the maintenance standards high.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You are doing important work in promoting the preservation of known habitats of local wildlife such as the Otter. The various access points to Kesh Lake provide some grand lake views and your walking trail plans have been noted for future reference.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control in Keshcarrigan was good on the day of the visit and the standards noted in 2006 appear to have continued. Some litter was noted in a few locations such as at the Bring Centre under the trees and on the Ballinamore approach road. At the Bring Centre the official signage was missing. The Adopt a Road concept appears to be producing results for Keshcarrigan as does the weekly clean up.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The projects that you have detailed in your Entry Form under this category are not really waste minimisation projects. This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your community is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. The Race Against Waste booklet circulated to all Tidy Towns Committee in 2006 has many ideas on waste reduction that may be of help to your committee.

#### **Tidiness:**

A front garden near the river bridge was noted as needing attention in terms of grass cutting and the area around the Bring Bank could have been tidied up a little though the problem was not serious here. Sundry other areas in need of tidying included the area near the old quarry beside the memorial and the entrance to the main quarry.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Weed growth at kerbing was noted in the estate with no signage opposite Lake View estate. Lakeview is a most attractive estate with the lake views and the board-walk out to the lake shore. An Gairdin has excellent landscaping at the entrance area and this estate features a good mix of designs and front elevations that gives character to this estate. Other private houses were generally well presented.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces in most of the village are generally poor and resurfacing is urgently required especially at the entrance to some of the new estates. Low stone walls are a signature feature of Keshcarrigan and should be preserved in new development where ever possible. The main approach roads looked quite well though some seem to have received more attention than others. For example the Carrick-On-Shannon road out by the quarry entrance does not seem to have received much recent attention.

#### **General Impression:**

One of the great features of your village is the various gardens all of which have different characteristics and collectively add much to the presentation of the village. The adjudicator would like to wish Keshcarrigan well in their planned projects for 2008.